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### THIRD WORLD AID: A NEW PRAGMATISM

ANNCR:

AMERICAN POLICY MAKERS ARE MELDING THEIR CONCERN FOR THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH A NEW PRAGMATISM TOWARD FOREIGN AID...AS WE HEAR IN THIS BACKGROUND REPORT BY VOA'S VERA HIRSCHBERG.

VOICE:

THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO COOPERATION AND ACCOMMODATION ON THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC DEMANDS FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. INDEED, CONCILIATION HAS BEEN THE WATCHWORD ON SUCH ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS THIRD WORLD DEBT AS WELL AS TRADE AND COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. AS SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE PUT IT AT THE NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC CONFERENCE: "THERE SHOULD BE A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM. IN THAT SYSTEM THERE MUST BE EQUITY: THERE MUST BE GROWTH; BUT, ABOVE ALL, THERE MUST BE JUSTICE. WE ARE PREPARED TO HELP BUILD THAT SYSTEM." TODAY, WHILE THE UNITED STATES IS STILL PREPARED TO BUILD THAT SYSTEM, IT IS LAYING THE BUILDING BLOCKS MORE SLOWLY.

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO STRESS ITS SUPPORT OF SUCH MULTILATERAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS AS THE WORLD BANK, A MAJOR SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC PROJECTS. ASSISTANT TREASURY SECRETARY FRED BERGSTEN MADE THIS CLEAR IN A SPEECH THE OTHER DAY BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE...A PRIVATE GROUP CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE REMINDED THE GROUP THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS HOLDING BACK ON MORE THAN 800 MILLION DOLLARS OF AID SLATED FOR THIRD WORLD LOANS BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS. "THE

ADMINISTRATION," HE SAID, "-BELIEVES IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE TO SECURE FUNDING FOR OUR PAST PLEDGES THIS YEAR."

WHILE THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO KEEP ITS WORD ON PAST AID PLEDGES, IT IS NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO INCREASE THOSE PLEDGES. IN HIS NEW BUDGET, PRESIDENT CARTER REQUESTED ROUGHLY FIVE THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS FOR FOREIGN AID ASSISTANCE...ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. IN SO DOING, THE PRESIDENT DEFERRED HIS PROMISE TO DOUBLE FOREIGN AID BY 1982.

THERE ARE OTHER SIGNS OF A NEW UNITED STATES PRAGMATISM IN DEALING WITH THIRD WORLD DEMANDS FOR A RESTRICTION OF THE WORLD'S WEALTH. WITH PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT RISING IN THE UNITED STATES, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS RULED OUT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BLANKET DEMANDS FOR PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO UNITED STATES MARKETS. AS ALAN WOLFE, THE UNITED STATES DEPUTY SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, SAID THE OTHER DAY: "IN THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE SHARP LIMITS ON THE SORT OF DIFFERENTIAL AND MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT THAT WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE." AS FOR COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, WASHINGTON HAS, UNTIL RECENTLY, GONE ALONG IN PRINCIPLE WITH THIRD WORLD RAW MATERIALS SUPPLIERS DEMANDS TO STABILIZE COMMODITY PRICES AT RELATIVELY HIGH LEVELS. BUT NOW, U.S. OFFICIALS SAY SUCH AGREEMENTS MUST HAVE BOTH PRICE CEILINGS AND PRICE FLOORS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS.

FOR THEIR PART, THE DEVELOPING NATIONS HAVE CONCENTRATED IN RECENT MONTHS ON INCREASING THEIR ECONOMIC INFLUENCE IN THE UNITED NATIONS. THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECENTLY APPROVED A THIRD WORLD-SPONSORED PROPOSAL TO REORGANIZE ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS TO COMPLY MORE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ECONOMIC AIMS. THE CHANGES INCLUDE THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO BE CHOSEN FROM AMONG THIRD WORLD DIPLOMATS.